

Abstract

The present invention relates to an image display apparatus including a plurality of spatial light modulation elements corresponding to respective colors and an illumination optical system illuminating the plural spatial light modulation elements. The image display apparatus includes a dichroic prism (5) which color-separates illumination light from an illumination optical system (2) to direct thus separated lights to respective spatial light elements (3R), (3G), (3B) as well as composites reflection lights from those spatial light elements (3R), (3G), (3B), and a projection lens (6) which projects the light outgoing from the dichroic prism (5) to display an image. A retarder stack (7), which is disposed on an optical path between the illumination optical system (2) and the dichroic prism (5), causes light of wavelength band which is supposed to pass through reflection planes of the dichroic prism (5) to be of P-polarized light, and causes light of wavelength band which is supposed to be reflected by the reflection planes to be of S-polarized light.